

REMARKS***Status of the Claims***

Claims 24-40 are pending, with claim 24 being independent. Claims 1 – 23 and 41 – 43 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of subject matter contained therein. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to the subject matter contained therein.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 24 – 40 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1 – 11 and 13 – 21 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15, 19-35, and 39-42 of copending Application 10/059,383 and over claims 1-11, 13-21, and 24-40 of copending Application 10/059,381. As noted above, claims 1 – 11 and 13 – 21 have been canceled, thereby obviating this rejection. In view thereof, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections Under U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 15 are rejected under 37 CFR § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Catalyst Reforming*, PennWell Books, 1985 (“Little”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,080,397 (“Derr”). Claims 4, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Little in view of Derr, and in further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,186 (“Moore”). Claim 7 is rejected under 37 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Little in view of Derr, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,673,487 (“Miller”).

Claims 13, 14, and 21 are under 37 CFR § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Derr. Claims 16-18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Derr in view of Moore. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

as allegedly being unpatentable over Derr in view of Moore, and further in view of Miller.

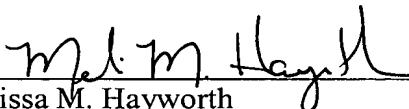
As indicated above, claims 1 – 23 and 41 – 43 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of subject matter contained therein, thereby obviating these rejections. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to the subject matter contained in the canceled claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By: 
Melissa M. Hayworth
Registration No. 45,774

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Date: May 3, 2004